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Our Home, our Country, and our Brother Man.

HORSE RACING AT CATTLE SHOWS.

We publish in this number of the Farmer remarks communicated by a friend on the subject of trotting horses, or perhaps it should be called horse-racing at our cattle shows. We have before expressed our opinion upon this matter. We hope the subject will be fully discussed, and public opinion made light upon it. That the trial of speed of horses at our shows, and the exhibition of skill on horseback by ladies, may, and in some instances has degenerated into a mere horse race, with all its attendant evils, cannot be denied. That a prudent and reasonable trial of speed and strength of our horses and cattle, as well as a decent decorous exhibition of skill of our ladies, in managing the horse while on its back, is useful, is equally true. But we wish to place this subject now before our farmers in another light.

How came these exhibitions introduced, and why are they conducted in the way and manner that they are? They were introduced and are thus conducted because of the selfish penuriousness of the great bulk of the farming community as it regards agricultural societies.

Now, this is a hard and severe accusation, and if it were not true we would not have made it, for we grieve to do it. But let the history of nearly all agricultural societies (in Maine at least) answer to it.

The legislature has very freely voted to each county, a sum of money (\$500) for the aid of agricultural societies, provided the people of the county raise a like sum; or in other words they will give as much money for that purpose as the Society will raise, not exceeding \$300. Well, a Society is formed, and the good farmers furnished with new born zeal, and excited by the novelty of the thing, take hold strong, and the Society begins life strong, and for a year or two all goes on "swimmingly."

But soon the novelty wears away, and the excitement dies away, and the zeal becomes cold. Farmer A. says, I have worked so long to benefit the society for nothing; and farmer B. says, I ought to have had a premium on my steers, and it was given to Joe Lammux's, which were not half so good, and I'll not have any more to do with them.

And farmer C. says, I can't be always paying a tax, when I can go to the show and see all for nothing—and so he pulls off. And farmer D. says, what's the use of my spending my time and labor? There's John Goodhead, and Jim Publicspirit, and Sam Kindtooth, they'll take care and see that every thing is done in season—and so he holds back.

Well, the result is this: The society begins to faint away; funds run short, and for the want of "material aid" it becomes almost a failure. The trustees and other really public-spirited and useful members come together—a handful of them—and "talk the thing over." And the first question, after ascertaining the true position, is: What shall we do for funds? How shall we raise the money necessary to carry on the operations of the society? Yankee ingenuity very soon adopted the plan of levying contributions upon all who wished to see the show, by enclosing the whole with a high fence, and charging an entrance fee at the gate.

Now was this all. Acting upon that weakness of human nature which induces too many of mankind to pay more freely and liberally for witnessing sports than serious matters—for nonsense than manifestations of good common sense, a display of horsemanship by ladies, and contests of speed in horses were introduced. And what is the result? More money to the treasury, and more fully in the community.

This is a true statement of facts. Had every farmer within the boundaries of each agricultural society considered the institution as established for his benefit—the welfare and prosperity of which it was his duty and privilege and pleasure to support, by a moderate but surely paid tax—there would not have been any resort to the practices now complained of. But they did not. Poverty has brought evil into the society, and now, some who never paid a copper to support an agricultural society, except at the gate for the purpose of witnessing the practices named, loudly complain of them. We admit the evil, but how shall it be remedied? Will a return to the old system of membership, and annual assessment, and throwing the show open free to all, do it, or be attended with any better result than heretofore?

ANALYSIS OF FODDER NEEDED.
We wish our good agricultural friends at the Patent Office would expend some of the money appropriated by Congress for the benefit of agriculture to having an accurate analysis made of the different kinds of fodder used in different parts of the United States. We should like the analysis to point out, not only the proportions of the different organic and inorganic ingredients of each kind examined, but also the nutritive power of each, so far as a mere chemical analysis may indicate it.

By such an arrangement, we could arrive at an approximate valuation of each species of fodder—say, for instance, of herbage, hay, red top, orchard grass, clover, corn fodder, straw, bog hay, &c. The value of this knowledge would enable farmers to feed more understandingly, and when we have an inferior grade of fodder, the nutritive principles found in other grasses or hay, and to make up the deficiency, provender of some kind or other should be used. Now it would be useful to know in what particular ingredient

such fodder is deficient, and how much to every 100 lbs. of it. Oat meal, or corn meal, or roots should be added to make it equivalent to the best of herbage, or clover hay. Some of the surplus revenue could be very profitably expended in such researches.

BOTS IN HORSES.

MR. EDITOR:—Your correspondent of August 8th, seems to somewhat doubt the position I assumed, in an article on bots in horses, published in a July number of your paper. In attempting to contradict, or bring into contempt, my ideas relative to the subject, he has shown himself to be in a very pitiful dilemma—either totally untrue to the operations of nature, or willfully ignorant in regard to the diseases of horses. After briefly describing the case which he takes as proof positive of his opinions, he winds up his article by demanding, in a peremptory manner, that if the bots did not kill the horse, what did?

From the brief and desultory character of the description of the appearance on post-mortem examination, it is impossible to arrive at a correct diagnosis of the case. Consequently I shall not attempt it; although the inflamed stomach would show that it was an internal fever, probably of gastric origin, which destroyed the animal, unless he died from the effects of the heterogeneous masses usually given by such promiscuous cures as your correspondent speaks of, under the false name of remedies. The bots had about as much to do with killing that horse as the large yard needle did with killing a bullock which I had slaughtered with my own hand. On removing the abdominal viscera, this needle was found embedded in the muscles of the stomach, within a few inches of the termination of the esophagus. Had this animal died of an acute inflammation of any of the internal organs, and upon examination had the needle been found, it would have been at once charged as the cause of the animal's death; when probably he would have lived years without suffering much inconvenience from it.

To suppose that the poor harmless grub would so far depart from the path of nature and the laws of its own being, as to destroy the animal from which it received its own succor and support, and thereby take its own life, appears highly absurd; and the idea will not be entertained for a moment by a person at all acquainted with the laws and operations of nature.

Perhaps there might be a quart of grubs found in the stomach of the horse, although that is an exceedingly large quantity. That there were some found in the abdominal cavity, which had escaped from the stomach, is doubtless true; and the supposition that they had eaten through the coats of the stomach, is probably correct. Now the question arises, did they eat through before or after the death of the horse? As this question will not admit of a positive decision, the most rational conclusion appears to be, that they did not eat through until the life of the animal was extinct. It requires but a few minutes after death, when the animal functions are suspended, for everything in the system to change. The grub soon finds that the source from which he received his food is cut off; so, like all animate nature, commences a reconnaissance, to find some means of escape from the prison where he is likely to die of starvation. As the wall of the stomach offers but little resistance, he very easily forces a passage, when he finds himself out of the frying-pan into the fire, and this accounts for their being found in the abdominal cavity.

As your correspondent is not a veterinary surgeon, (which he acknowledges,) I shall not enter into any further discussion of the subject; but close by adding, that the fact of the grub being found without the stomach, is no proof whatever of its having killed the horse.

L. M. BURNHAM, V. S.
Bridgton, Dec. 14, 1856.

HINTS FOR THE SEASON.

I. Take good care of your hogs that are being fattened. If they are confined in a pen, keep it very clean. Feed the swine their grain at regular intervals. A suitable variety of roots along with pure meal, is a great advantage. Never feed whole dry grain to the hogs—steamed or ground, or both, is far better. A good dose of charcoal sulphur, now and then, is good for swine, whether fattening, or otherwise. Hogs fed on the offal of the slaughter-house, make pork quite inferior to those that are fed with good rich grain and fine roots. Potato-feed is also inferior. Dairy pork is reckoned the best, as being whitest, neatest, and of most delicate flavor.

II. See that all orchards, and other enclosures into which you do not wish animals to intrude, are kept carefully shut up. Stock love to wander, nor the pastures are naked; the animals do not like hay while they can reach the ground; and they are inclined to press through wherever they hope to find better picking. Be on your guard against this.

III. Have you plenty of good racks and boxes for foddering your stock? If not, make them, so that no hay need be wasted on the ground. These contrivances pay for themselves several times each winter.

IV. Be very careful in using lanterns or lamps about your barn. Have a good tight, strong lamp well fortified with wire; one that will not break or be hurt if it falls. When you go to your barn or stable after dark, hang the lamp on a strong peg or nail, where it will throw light on your work, and be out of the reach of anything combustible, when you get through, take it down carefully, and go away. Do not expose the eyes of horses or cows suddenly to a strong light; it alarms and confuses the animal, and hurts its vision.

V. When you can, let your animals lie in the morning as long as they will. When they get up of themselves, then fodder and feed them. When a day's work must be done, you must feed early; but, otherwise, we think it does all animals good to rest in a cold morning as long as they will. We fancy they stand the cold better, when they have a long sleep at night. (Ohio Farmer.)

POULTRY NEED WARM AND COMFORTABLE QUARTERS these cold nights, and you will find that there will be a saving of corn or a proportionate increase of fat, if they, chickens, turkeys, and all, are made to come off from the apple trees, and rest in the poultry house.



DESIGN FOR A SMALL FARM HOUSE.

We here present a farm house of the simplest and most unpretending kind, suitable for a farm of twenty, fifty, or an hundred acres. Buildings somewhat in this style are not unfrequently seen in the New England States, and in New York; and the plan is in fact suggested, although not copied, from some farm houses which we have known there, with improvements and additions of our own.

This house may be built either of stone, brick or wood. The style is rather rustic than otherwise, and intended to be altogether plain, yet agreeable in outward appearance, and of quite convenient arrangement. The body of this house is 40 by 30 feet on the ground, and 12 feet high, to the plates for the roof; the lower rooms nine feet high; the roof intended for a pitch of 35°—but, by an error in the drawing, made less—thus affording very tolerable chamber room in the roof story. The L, or rear projection, containing the wash-room and wood-house, just out two feet from the side of the house to which it is attached, with posts 7 feet high above the floor of the main house; the pitch of the roof being the same. Beyond this is a building 32 by 24 feet, with 10 feet posts, partitioned off into a swill-room, pig-pen, workshop, and wagon-house, and a like roof with the others. A light, rustic porch, 12 by 18 feet, with lattice work, is placed on the front of the house, and another at the side door, over which vines, by way of drapery, may run; thus combining that sheltered, comfortable and home-like expression so desirable in a rural dwelling. The chimney is carried out into three separate flues, sufficiently marked by the partitions above the roof. The windows are hooded, or sheltered, to protect them from the weather, and fitted with simple sliding sashes, with 7 by 9 or 8 by 10 glass. Under blinds may be added, if required; but it is usually better to have these inside, as they are no ornament to the outside of the building, are liable to be driven back and forth by the wind, even if fastenings are used, and in any event are little better than a continual annoyance.

INTERIOR ARRANGEMENT.

W.H. 16x14. P.C. 16x12. W.S. 16x10. SWILL 16x12. W.H. 30x40. W.R. 16x14. S.R. 16x15. P. 18x15. K. 22x15. B.R. 9x8. C. 9x8. D. 9x8. GROUND PLAN.

The front door, over which is a single sash light arch, opens into a hall or entry 7 feet, from which a door opens on either side into a sitting room and parlor, each 16 by 15 feet, lighted by a double, plain window, at the end, and a single two-sash window in front. Between the entrance door and stove are in each room a small

pantry or closet for dishes, or otherwise, as may be required. The chimney stands in the centre of the house, with a separate flue for each front room, into which a thin plate is inserted to receive the stove pipes by which they are warmed; and from the inner side of these rooms each has a door passing to the kitchen, or chief living room. This last apartment is 22 by 15 feet, with a broad fireplace containing a crane, hook and trammel, if required, and a spacious family oven—affording those homely and primitive comforts still so dear to many of us who are not ready to concede that all the virtues of the present day are combined in a "perfection cooking stove," and a patent heater; although there is a chance for these last, if they should be adopted into the peaceful atmosphere of this kitchen.

On one side of the kitchen, in the rear of the stairs, is a bedroom, 9 by 8 feet, with a window in one corner. Adjoining that, is a buttery, dairy-room, or closet, 9 by 6 feet, also having a window. At the inner end of the stairway is the cellar passage; at the outer end is the chamber passage, leading above in the highest part of the roof story. Opposite the chamber stairs is a door leading to the wash-room. Between the two windows, on the rear side of the kitchen, is a sink, with a waste pipe passing out through the wall. At the further corner a door opens into a snug bedroom 9 by 8 feet, lighted by a window in rear; and adjoining this is a side entry leading from the end door, 9 by 6 feet in area; thus making every room in the house accessible at once from the kitchen, and giving the greatest possible convenience in both living and house work.

The roof story is partitioned into convenient sized bedrooms; the ceiling running down the pitch of the roof to within two feet of the floor, unless they are not shot by inner partitions, as they are in the largest chamber, to give closets. The open area in the centre, at the head of the stairs, is lighted by a small gable window inserted in the roof, at the rear, and serves as a lumber room; or, if necessary, a bed may occupy a part of it.

In rear of the main dwelling is a building 44 by 16 feet, occupied as a wash-room and wood-house. The wash-room floor is set down eight inches below the kitchen, and is 16 by 14 feet, in area, lighted by a window on each side, with a chimney, in which is set a boiler, and fireplace, if desired, and a sink in the corner adjoining. This room is 7 feet in height. A door passes from this wash-room into the wood-house, which is 30 by 16 feet, open in front, with a water-closet in the further corner.

The cellar is 7 feet in height—and is the whole size of the house, laid with good stone wall, in line mortar, with a flight of steps leading outside, in rear of the kitchen, and two or more sash-light windows at the ends. If not in a loose, gravelly, or sandy soil, the cellar should be kept dry by a drain leading out on to lower ground.

The building beyond, and adjoining the wood-house, contains a swill house 16 by 12 feet, with a window in one end; a chimney and boiler in one corner, with storage for swill barrels, grain, meal, potatoes, &c., for feeding the pigs, which are in the adjoining pen of the same size, with feeding trough, place for sleeping, &c., and having a window in one end and a door in the rear, leading to a yard.

Adjoining these, in front, is a workshop and tool-house, 16 by 10 feet, with a window at the end, and an entrance door near the wood house. In this is a joiner's work-bench, a chest of working tools, such as a saw, hammers, augers, &c., necessary for repairing implements, doing little rough jobs, or other wood work, &c., which every farmer ought to do for himself; and also storing his hoes, axes, shovels, hammers, and other small farm implements. In this room he will find abundant rainy-day employment in repairing his utensils of various kinds, making his beehives, hencoops, &c., &c. Next to this is the wagon-house, 16 by 14 feet, with broad doors at the end, and harness pegs around the walls.

The posts of this building are 10 feet high; the rooms eight feet high, and a low chamber overhead for storing lumber, grain, and other articles, as may be required. Altogether, these several apartments make a very complete and desirable accommodation to a man with the property and occupation for which it is intended.

On one side and adjoining the house, should be the garden, the clove-yard, and the bee-house, which last should always stand in full sight, and facing the most frequented road—say the kitchen, or the rear of the house, during the swarming season, as those performing household duties may keep them in view.

[Allen's Rural Architecture.]

STEVENS' STEAM BATTERY.
The Harbor Steam Battery, which has been building at Hoboken for a long time past by Mr. Stevens, is being roofed over, preparatory for winter, as the work has been suspended, except on engines. It is still carefully screened from public view, and visitors are seldom admitted. The original projector having deceased, the work is carried forward by a surviving brother. Among the estimates of appropriation by the United States government for the ensuing year, is \$86,717 for this enterprise. She has been planked up to the main deck with heavy iron plates, and amidships the planking has been extended several feet higher, for the protection of the machinery. It is understood that other layers of plates are to be added, so as to make a wall at least six inches in thickness, proof against shot and shell. The appropriation already made and expended for this object was \$250,000. In addition, a large amount has been expended by the builder in the excavation of the dock in which to construct the vessel. The length of this iron battery is about 400 feet. She will be equipped with a heavy armament, and furnished for heating shot; and be propelled by steam power, at unusual speed. It is asserted that she might be run into any ordinary vessel, cutting her in two.

The work was commenced after a long series of experiments, under the supervision of Com. Stewart and Col. Patten, representing the army and navy, to determine the penetrating power of common shot upon plates of iron. Their report was satisfactory, showing that wrought iron plates 44 inches in thickness formed a perfect defense against a solid 64lb. shot, fired at a distance of ten yards, or that successive layers of iron plates, with intervening spaces, were equally efficacious. The Secretary of the Navy was soon after authorized to contract for the work here notified. For harbor defense, such a craft as this must prove highly efficient, moving about rapidly, choosing its positions at pleasure, regardless of the most formidable missiles of the enemy—and hurling its heated shot and other projectiles in every direction, the havoc committed would be fearful. The cost of this "infernal machine," complete, has been estimated at \$1,000,000. [N. Y. Journal of Commerce.]

A BRIEF REVIEW Of the late Agricultural Exhibitions, Fairs, &c., in Maine.

If a small space in the Farmer may be allowed to the writer, for a few remarks, upon the characteristics of our so-called agricultural and horticultural exhibitions, I will endeavor as briefly as I may, to show that there has been, of late years, a great perversion of the object for which, as I understand it, these corporations were first instituted. I am aware that the time that has passed cannot be recalled, nor the acts already performed be brought back to be amended. But as the time is near at hand, for those who may have the management and direction of those institutions to give out new rules for their regulations, I can but hope that the matter will not be entrusted to horse-jockeys, gamblers, nor circus riders, nor to such as may be influenced to favor any of the many demoralizing sports that have found their way into those exhibitions, which of late have had so little resemblance to agriculture that, I think, it is strange were to be blindfolded and set down within the limits of one of these exhibitions, and then his eyes to be uncovered, his first impression would be that he was surrounded by gladiators, circus riders, horse racers, and their attendants and spectators.

Now, as I may have occasion, hereafter, to allude to some of those incongruous practices already hinted at, I will pass on to some such objects as I think the promotion of which should be encouraged by way of premiums, though it will not be my intention to allude in this brief sketch to but few things among the many in agriculture, horticulture and the arts, which should receive encouragement in their improved and improving qualities.

I perceive that the mode or practice of awarding premiums on neat cattle, horses, sheep, &c., have been something like the following, viz:—

"For best pair oxen," 5, 8, or 10 dollars as the case may be. "For best pair of steers" of any age, a corresponding premium is supposed to be offered according to the quality as adjudged by the committee charged with the matter for decision. "For best farm horse" \$5, more or less as the case may be. "For best flock of sheep, ten or more," one volume of some book on sheep husbandry or its equivalent, in money or some other valuable article. Now, if the stock-grower has kept, for his own benefit, and for the benefit of his neighbors and of the community within the limits of the society of which he is a member, the parent stock, whose progeny those "best oxen" and "best steers" are, he should be encouraged still to progress in improving his stock; and the purpose for which he is to be awarded a premium, should be because he is the raiser and producer of improved stock, and not because he has been the exhibitor merely, of the best; for a man may never have contributed the merest iota towards raising good and improved stock himself, or by patronizing his neighbors in their attempts towards improvement, and yet, just before the time of exhibition, may go into a neighboring county and purchase a pair of fine oxen, fine steers, a nice flock of sheep, and an excellent horse, and present them for premiums at the society's show, and being the best on exhibition, would be entitled to the prize, according to the usual mode; but none of the blood of this grade of stock may ever have circulated in the veins of a single creature raised within the limits of the society, nor ever can.

Then clearly that man has added nothing in those cases, whereby he should be entitled to the society's money or approval, for no one is benefited but himself in any mode of the case in question; so that if the position that I have taken in relation to the oxen and steers, be correct, it is likewise correct if applied to any department of stock husbandry, in which premiums are given. Then let the farmer that produces the best bred animal of the species, either bull, stallion, boar, or sow, or any other animal capable of propagating its kind, be encouraged still to persevere in improvements, by awarding him a premium commensurate with the advantages derived from his enterprising efforts.

The awarding of premiums as an inducement for competitors to test the superior strength of their oxen, is, in my opinion, both theoretically and practically wrong, for what benefit is the community to receive from the veritable fact, that my oxen have actually hauled a load of stone upon a drag, with greater apparent ease, (as adjudged by the committee,) than my neighbor's? This great feat of superiority may have been performed by dint of the application of some of the excrements of oxen, which might cause the drag to glide along more easily, adding to the repeated application of the goat, inflicting torture upon the distorted muscles of the animals, causing them to exert the utmost of their strength, to gratify the barbarous curiosity of beholders! I have introduced myself into the simile, not because I ever did allow my oxen to haul at a cattle show, for I have ever believed that the test of superiority in the real value of oxen for labor on the farm, is and should be in their hands, and this may be tested, and ought to be, without the clutter of a great load, and the man who has educated his oxen to the highest degree of usefulness in all departments of labor in which they are used, should be the recipient of the premium, and not the man who may have recently purchased him, but who has never exercised his skill in training them, though they may be the best on exhibition,—for it is evident that if the latter should be rewarded on account of their superiority, he would receive the premium on his money, and not on his skill.

The same rule will hold good if applied to the properties of the horse, and I would have awarded a high premium to that man who should possess the knowledge, apply it skillfully, and make it public, to bring into disrepute the refractory nature of some horses, which for want of proper training are nearly useless, but which possess muscular ability naturally for great endurance. The practice that of late has stolen its way into and among the sober realities of our agricultural exhibitions, of racing horses, is a marvel, which may be solved perhaps by those who first introduced it; but its effects, and the absurdities of such an evil are so revolting, that its name can have no place in the catalogue of particular or miscellaneous usefulness, and the impropriety of awarding premiums for successful competition in gambling operations is so enormous, that I hope the trustees of our agricultural corporations will entirely discard the admission of any horse-racing, or boy-racing either,—for what possible merit is that man entitled to, who may have driven his horse around the race course of a half a mile in circumference, in one minute and twenty seconds, and in time less by one and a half seconds than his competitor?

There are many unnoticed incidents of chance in this case, as I presume there are in all others of the same nature, so that if the practice were allowable, the comparative value of the horses for their speed could not be fully tested. The horse that came out ahead might have taken the inside circle of the race-way, and therefore not wasted time in further delineation of the chances for wrong conclusions, in the matter of awarding premiums, for success in this case,—for "vice versa" is a most frightful mean as, to be hated, needs but to be seen."

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But of all the exhibitions which have found their way into our agricultural exhibitions, that of lady-riding caps the climax. I do not intend in my animadversion upon this subject, to bring into unjust reproach, any female who may have been wheeled into a false notion that honor was attached to having her name heralded in the public papers as being the successful competitor in equestrian skill. But I cannot easily treat upon the subject, without a thrill of disgust at the idea of such gross absurdity as is involved in the inducement held out in the matter and manner of premiums for young, innocent, and artless girls, to exhibit themselves on a test of animal activity, or of more instructive equestrianism, on a level, so far as animal facilities are concerned, with the boasts they ride; one animal may have been considered a fit subject for premium, because he has performed the prettiest feat of any quadruped on exhibition, and the other because she has performed the prettiest feat of any biped; and since the old mode of lady-riding used to be performed in a sitting posture, and since, moreover, it has been introduced into our public shows, and been considered by our pioneers of agriculture, to be among the improvements, for which the highest premiums except for that of horse-racing should be offered, it may therefore be thought too trite a habit still to continue to ride sitting, and a standing posture adopted; and this fact being made public, and a premium of 25, 30 or 50 dollars offered for the best female standing rider,—would not Barnum or some other person have an unquestionable right to present a baboon as a competitor for the prize? I see no reason why he would not; and if the monkey, dressed in all the riding habiliments of the latest fashion, should so artfully and skillfully stand and ride upon the horse, as to overcome all prejudice in the minds of the committee, and they accord to her the premium, would not the lady's honor become a snarl? I think it would,—and I think also, that no set of directors of an agricultural corporation, would be willing to father such an absurdity. Now, I am willing to acknowledge that I have treated this thing in a manner somewhat ludicrous, but not more so than in verity the subject matter is ridiculous. Then away with all such incongruities, and let reason and true honor again resume their seat upon the throne of agriculture. Let the ox be treated with mercy that he may not dread to "know his owner," and the noble horse with kindness, and he will turn from his crib with semi-human pleasure, to do his master's bidding.

Let our sons be taught to know the value of all that is useful and beautiful in the creation, and our daughters likewise, and there will be no perverted habits, claiming and contesting the seat with virtuous ones, but what may be destroyed; and as a matter of momentous consequence, let not our children be introduced, nor exposed to any temptation tending towards the grossly demoralizing habits of the circus. These I believe, have their birth place mostly within those hot-beds of vice so numerous in the metropolitan city, and are suffered yearly as stalking marauders of both money and morals, to traverse our land, and here I will not suppress the utterance of a hope that our legislature at its coming session will enact a law accompanied with a heavy penalty, prohibiting that horde of miscreants from entering our State.

UNITY WITH CONSISTENCY.
December, 1856.
OIL OF MUSTARD IN RHEUMATISM. Where one of the great population complain, to some extent, of rheumatic pains, in the fickle climate of New England, but more especially along the sea shores, physicians have it in their power to mitigate an immense amount of severe suffering by prescribing the volatile oil of mustard. It is employed as a rubefacient, being first diluted in its own weight of alcohol at forty degrees. Some patients may object to its pungent odor; but that is temporary, while the remedy may in some cases prove a permanent cure. Make the application at least twice a day, and protect the part with soft flannel. Mustard pills are in operation in the cities generally, at which the oil may be procured, it being an article not much in demand in the arts. Were it not for detecting it by a pungent odor, this oil would have become a secret remedy for rheumatic pains years ago. A nostrum loses its miraculous efficiency and curative powers on becoming known. [Medical World.]

THE MUCK-BED. There is a "placer" too often uncovered, which contains untold wealth to the farmer. It is a well-established fact, that two loads of muck, which may be generally had at the cost of draining, composted with one load of animal manure, furnish three loads of fertilizing material equal to barn-yard manure. Let not this means of increasing the product of the farm remain unemployed. Add muck to the manure from the stables, spread it over the yards, use it freely. If sufficiently dry, it forms a capital bedding material for stabled animals, absorbing the liquid manures, and becoming thoroughly incorporated with the solid. [Ex.]

DRAINING OF WET LANDS AND MATRICES add to their value, by making them to produce more, and by improving the health of neighborhoods—both important considerations.

THE DYING YEAR.

Stretched on the Autumn's withered leaves,
Which the winds had heaped in play,
With the glittering shroud that the hoar frost weaves
Cast over him as he lay;
With death within his heart,
And disease in his gaze,
The dying Old Year saw depart
His last moon's pallid rays.
There was a dim light in the air,
A cold and ghastly gleam;
The clashing boughs were stripped and bare,
The ice was on the stream.
Out from the frozen North
The winds rushed fiercely by;
And the stars of heaven came looking forth
To see the Old Year die.

O! for the balmy days of Spring,
When the hawthorn brought white, white,
And the woodcock ran on his buoyant wing,
In the glowing morning light;
When over the cherry trees
The sun and shadows rolled,
And the meadows, that waved like a heaving sea,
Were bright with the king-cups' gold.

O! for the beauty and the pride,
When the Summer's bounteous hand
Scattered her treasures far and wide,
O'er all the pleasant land,
When sweetly all day long,
At morn, and eve, and noon,
He heard the trill of the blackbird's song
Through the bowery woods of June.

O! for one single moment now
Of the glowing Autumn sun!
When the rustling wheat-shed bared his brow,
And the reaper's task was done,
When on the laden trees
The fruit hung ripe and fair,
And the murmuring hum of the honey-bee
Came drowsily on the air.

Keen roared the dying monarch's blast—
Let us kneel and meekly pray,
With sigh, and moan, and sorrowing tear,
As the soul doth pass away.
Let each lightly-matted hair
Of the months that have gone by
Strike on our hearts with a fearful power,
As we see the Old Year die.

Let us weep for the ills which we have wrought,
The good we have cast away,
The hasty word and the evil thought
Of many a by-gone day.
Hark! with the midnight chime
Another year is fled,
Another step in the march of time—
The poor old king is dead!

STOVES ECONOMIZING HEAT.
It is well known that cylindrical stoves give out the most heat, and have the best draft, but there are few who seem to know the reason why. They do not seem to be aware, at least, that there is anything in the principle of their construction which imparts to them such qualities. Stove manufacturers cannot be accused of possessing too much scientific knowledge regarding the best form of stoves, or we would not see so many blunders committed by them in casting so many with square and rectangular furnaces.— This is especially the case with cooking ranges and stoves,—their fire boxes are constructed on wrong principles.

The reason why a cylinder stove gives out so much heat, and tends to produce such a good draft, is owing to the sides of its fire box or furnace being concave in form. Heat, like light, may be concentrated by concave mirrors; hence the heat is more concentrated in stoves which have concave than those which have square fire boxes; the rectangular form of a fire box is more convenient for cooking ranges, but there is no excuse for constructing the furnace of any parlor or other heating stove of square form.

The fire-brick for lining stoves should be fluted. Bricks with plain surfaces are not so durable as the fluted kind, because the latter tend to prevent the adherence of clinker. Some bricks for stoves are actually cast with convex surfaces, as if designed for scattering the rays of heat, thus exhibiting ignorance of the laws of heat. Bright metal surfaces do not radiate heat so well as dark, dull surfaces, therefore Russia iron in stoves and pipes does not radiate so much heat into a room as common iron. Those surfaces which radiate heat most efficiently also possess the power of absorbing it, and vice versa.

As the intensity of heat varies inversely as the square of the distance from the radiating point, it is evident that the nearer the stove is placed to the centre of the room, or space which it is designed to heat, the more uniform will be the temperature of the whole space, and not only so, but a greater amount of heat will be economized. Stove manufacturers have devoted an immense amount of attention to elaborate the surfaces of cast-iron stoves, and to produce an incalculable amount of complicated forms; but not so much to produce stoves based upon the philosophy of the laws of heat. We hope that more attention, scientifically, will hereafter be devoted to this great and important branch of American manufactures. [Scientific American.]

TEXAS AND ARKANSAS. The emigration to those States from the older slave States is remarkably large, and seems constantly on the increase. A recent number of the Memphis Bulletin says:—"We have never before observed so large a number of emigrants going westward as are crossing the river at this point daily, the two ferry boats—some times three—going crowded from early morn until the boats come making their trips at night. It is no uncommon sight to see from twenty to forty wagons enjamined on the bluff for the night, notwithstanding there has been a steady stream going across the river all day, and yet the cry is still they come. The emigration from the older States—mostly Virginia, North and South Carolina, Georgia, Alabama, Mississippi and this State, all going to settle in Arkansas and Texas. Judging from these indications, the influx of population into those States will be larger this season than ever before, and of good substantial citizens."

DUTIES OF CATTLE JUDGES. A correspondent of the Ohio Farmer says:—"Their duty to the Society and the public requires that they should accurately note down, and specify in their reports, the individual merits and demerits of the competing animals, and clearly point out the points in which the preferred animal excels. You thus systematically establish permanent rules governing your awards, which must give more general satisfaction to the public and breeders of fine stock."

THE MONITOR FARMER: AN AGRICULTURAL AND FAMILY NEWSPAPER.

LATEST NEWS FROM EUROPE.

ARRIVAL OF THE CANADA.

The steamship Canada, with thirteen days later intelligence from Europe arrived at Halifax on Thursday last week. The following summary embraces everything of interest:—

THE AMERICA sailed from Liverpool Dec. 6, but met with very heavy weather and when lying to 50 miles west of Cape Clear, was struck by a sea, which swept decks, carried away bulwarks and three boats, and completely gutted the forward saloon. One man was badly injured. The America therefore put back to Liverpool, where she arrived at 2 A. M. on Thursday, 11th. The passengers presented a complimentary address to Capt. Lang and officers.

The Liverpool Mercury of the 12th, has the following additional particulars of the disaster to the steamship America:

Yesterday morning the British and North American royal mail steamship America, Capt. Lang, returned to this port in a disabled state, having encountered a severe gale in the Channel. The steamer sailed from Liverpool on Saturday last, with a large number of passengers and the usual mails, for Boston. After leaving the port she met with very severe weather, but continued her course without interruption until the morning of Tuesday last, when she was overtaken by a heavy sea, which struck her with tremendous force, the gale raging at the time with perfect violence. The decks were completely swept away, and considerable damage was done to the hull, especially among the passengers. The bulwarks were carried away, as well as three boats. The steamer's pantry suffered in a similar manner, a great portion of the provisions being lost. The fire alarm completely gutted the vessel, and the fire alarm completely gutted the vessel, and the fire alarm completely gutted the vessel.

At half-past six, on Wednesday evening, the America exchanged signals with the United States mail steamer Baltic, which sailed from the Mersey in the morning of the 9th inst. The ship and passengers were rescued, and the ship was towed to the pier, where she arrived at an early hour yesterday morning. The American now lies in the Hudson Dock, and will require to be laid up for some time for repairs.

The Captain and fifteen persons, picked up from the steamer America, arrived at Liverpool, but the name of the ship rescuing them is not given. A subscription has been opened in London for the widows and children of those who perished.

There has been a succession of severe gales along the British coast, with numerous casualties in the Channel. The steamer Troubadour, arrived at Dublin, was destroyed by a short of fuel, and burned to the water's edge. A deputation from Liverpool, Manchester and London had been sent to the British demonstration against New Germany.

Richard Cobden has published another letter on Maritime Law.

The London Times has an editorial backing out of the Arrowmitch Georgia railroad and revolver hoax. It is reported that Arrowmitch has been given a formal protest to the Cabinet.

The Havre Journal contains a Cayenne letter of November 5, stating that gold was discovered in several parts of the colony.

Several marine disasters are reported from the Mediterranean.

is accompanied by a circular, demanding the release of the Congress of Paris. This circular contains an expose of the steps taken by the Russian Cabinet, with a view to the fulfillment of Articles 20 and 21 of the treaty of Paris. As regards the release of the Congress of Paris, the Russian government says the island was incontestably in possession of Russia before the rupture.

With respect to the Bessarabian frontier question, the memorandum mentions two instances of concession by Russia. With regard to the Upper Galatz and Balgrad, the memorandum defends the views of Russia, and states that the map from which the frontier line was defined at the Paris Convention was compiled by the Russian government. The memorandum also states that Count Walowski asked Baron Brunow whether the Court of Russia would abide by the majority of votes at the coming conference, and the Russian Cabinet telegraphed an answer to the effect that the affirmative, and hence Russia is blameless in present difficulty.

Prussia. The latest dispatches inform us that the alleged capture of Herat was still doubtful. The Russian Government, by the English Embassy with Herat Khan, appear likely to detain the latter at Constantinople for seven months. The personnel of the English Embassy had left Tehran. The Russian Government had demanded the release of the Russian Consul at Constantinople, and the Russian Consul at Constantinople, and the Russian Consul at Constantinople.

THE ARRIVAL OF THE CANADA.

The steamship Europa arrived at New York on Saturday, bringing dates to the 13th ult., one day later than the above. There is little of interest.

The fall of Herat is confirmed. It surrendered to the British troops on the 13th inst. The English troops had arrived in the Persian Gulf. A dispatch from Vienna states that France was mediating between the belligerents and endeavoring to persuade Persia to yield to England.

There was a slight agitation at Calcutta on the 1st of November, and the last division of the fleet for the Persian Gulf left Bombay on the 1st of November. Five thousand troops are to be sent to Persia.

The Berlin correspondence of the Independence states that Prussia has announced in her recent note, that the negotiations with Switzerland are ready to terminate, and that Prussia will make no further concessions to the Swiss. Prussia will be ready to receive any new proposition, but she will not make any herself.

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AUGUSTA PRICES CURRENT.

Commodity	Price
Wheat	\$1.00
Barley	.80
Oats	.60
Rye	.90
Corn	.50
Flour	2.00
Butter	1.50
Eggs	.10
Lard	.80

BRISTOL MARKET, Dec. 25.

At market, 870 bushels of wheat, 1000 bushels of barley, 2500 bushels of oats, 1000 bushels of rye, 1000 bushels of corn, 1000 bushels of flour, 1000 bushels of butter, 1000 bushels of eggs, 1000 bushels of lard.

BOSTON MARKET, Dec. 29.

Flour—\$1.00; Wheat—\$.80; Barley—\$.60; Oats—\$.50; Rye—\$.90; Corn—\$.50; Flour—2.00; Butter—1.50; Eggs—.10; Lard—.80.

Prof. Wm. H. Brewster.

We know nothing of his merits as we read, but we are sure that he is a man of high character and high ability.

The World's Dispensary.

The good people of the city of Augusta, I think it into their hands to make their purchase a visit, and spend a few hours in the early morning, when the weather is so pleasant.

A CARD.

The undersigned would like to see the friends of the Bazaar, and to see the friends of the Bazaar, and to see the friends of the Bazaar.

THIRTY-FOURTH CONGRESS.

SENATE. On motion of Mr. Seward, the Senate proceeded to the consideration of the report of the President on the subject of the Bazaar.

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AGRICULTURAL HEADQUARTERS.

1857.

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MAIN STATE AG. SOCIETY.

THE Maine State Agricultural Society is hereby notified that the Annual Meeting of the Society will be held on Tuesday, 27th inst., at 10 o'clock in the forenoon, at the State House in Augusta, to transact the following business:

1. To choose a President, Secretary, Treasurer, and 25 Trustees.

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MILLINERY.

MISS E. L. BROWN, of the Boston Millinery Co., is now in the city, and is selling her goods at a great discount.

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850,000 ACRES SELECTED PINE AND FARMING LAND.

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